WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for monitoring an apparatus interacting with computers on a network and controlling the computers accordingly comprising:

configuring a subordinate program with a monitoring program on a monitoring computer; and

installing the configured subordinate program from the monitoring computer to a target computer.

2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a message from the apparatus with the monitoring computer.

3.   The method of claim 2, further comprising determining from the message if a shutdown condition exists by using the monitoring program.

4.   The method of claim 3, further comprising transmitting a shutdown instruction from the monitoring program to the subordinate program if the shutdown condition exists.

5.   The method of claim 4, further comprising shutting down the target computer with the subordinate program based on the received shutdown instruction.

6.   The method of claim 1, wherein installing the subordinate program from the monitoring computer to the target computer comprises pushing the subordinate program to the target computer via the network.

7.   The method of claim 1, wherein installing the subordinate program from the monitoring computer to the target computer comprises installing the subordinate program from a floppy diskette or other removable media.

8.   The method of claim 1, wherein installing the subordinate program from the monitoring computer to the target computer comprises e-mailing the subordinate program as a file of executable code from the monitoring computer to the target computer.

9.   The method of claim 1, wherein installing the subordinate program from the monitoring computer to the target computer comprises downloading the subordinate program from the monitoring computer to the target computer via the network.

10.   A system for monitoring an apparatus providing support for or interacting with computers on a network, the system comprising:

a monitoring program receiving data from the apparatus and comprising:

a first routine determining an alarm condition of the apparatus from the data,

a second routine determining a target computer on the network effected by the alarm condition of the apparatus, and

a third routine sending a predetermined instruction to the affected target computer over the network; and

a subordinate program configured by the monitoring program and installed on the target computer, the subordinate program receiving the predetermined instruction and performing a shutdown routine of the affected target computer.

11.   The system of claim 10, wherein the apparatus is an uninterruptible power supply.

12.   The system of claim 10, wherein the apparatus is a detection device selected from the group consisting of a smoke alarm, a burglar alarm, a fire detector, a water detector, or an unauthorized access detector.

13.   The system of claim 10, wherein the subordinate program is transferred from a monitoring computer having the monitoring program to the target computer via the network.

14. A system for monitoring an apparatus providing support for or interacting with computers on a network comprising:

a monitoring program performing the steps comprising:

receiving data from the apparatus,

determining an alarm condition of the apparatus,

determining a computer on the network effected by the alarm condition of the apparatus,

sending a shutdown instruction to the affected target computer; and

a subordinate program being configured by the monitoring program and installed on the target computer, the subordinate program performing the steps comprising:

receiving the shutdown instruction, and

shutting down the affected target computer.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the subordinate program is transferred to the target computer from the monitoring program via the network.

16. The system of claim 14, wherein the apparatus is an uninterruptible power supply.

17. The system of claim 14, wherein the apparatus is a detection device selected from the group consisting of a smoke alarm, a burglar alarm, a fire detector, a water detector, or an unauthorized access detector.

18.   A system for shutting down a target computer, the target computer receiving support from or interacting with an apparatus, the target computer and apparatus connected on a network, the system comprising:

>   a pre-configured program installed on the target computer and performing a shutdown routine of the target computer based on a predetermined instruction received from the apparatus;

>   a processor installed in the apparatus, the processor monitoring the apparatus for an alarm condition and creating the predetermined instruction based on the alarm condition; and

>   a network interface installed in the apparatus and enabling the processor to communicate the predetermined instruction to the program on the target computer via the network.

19.   The system of claim 18, wherein the pre-configured program is configured by a monitoring program on a monitoring computer and is installed from the monitoring computer to the target computer via the network.

20.   The system of claim 18, wherein the apparatus is a device providing an uninterruptible power supply to the target computer.